

Acting Administrator's Column



John Jamian

As you may know, Captain Bill Schubert stepped down as Maritime Administrator on February 12, after three years of distinguished service. I am deeply honored to have been asked to serve as Acting Maritime Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

I grew up on the Great Lakes, America's fourth coastline; waterborne transportation is in my blood. In fact, every job I have had has been related in some way to waterborne commerce. But, I also have a national and international perspective—why our Nation must have a strong U.S. Merchant Marine and shipbuilding industry, and a vibrant, growing marine transportation system. This perspective has been strengthened with practical experience during my two and one-half years in Washington as Deputy and now Acting Maritime Administrator.

Indeed, there would be no U.S. Merchant Marine without the fundamental triad of our Nation's maritime policies.

The first component of this triad is the Maritime Security Program, which allows us to maintain an American presence on the sea lanes of the world.

The second component is the Jones Act, which mandates U.S.-flag, U.S.-built, and U.S.-crewed shipping of our domestic trades. This domestic fleet provides a critical source of qualified manpower for sealift and its vessels, from tugs to ferries to barges to Great Lakes and oceangoing vessels, carry more than one billion tons of cargo and some 200,000 passengers a year. It generates thousands of jobs, directly and indirectly, in every state. It also helps maintain our national defense shipbuilding industrial base.

The third component of our Nation's maritime policies is U.S.-flag preference for cargoes generated by the U.S. Government. Cargo preference laws provide an essential base of cargo that offsets the higher costs of U.S.-flag operations and keeps the U.S. flag in world shipping commerce. Maintaining the letter and spirit of these laws is a major and important responsibility of MARAD.

The future of the maritime industry is predicated upon the growth in marine transportation. This is vital for the economy and security of the Nation.

2005 National Maritime Day Observance



Date: Thursday, May 19, 2005

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Location: U.S. Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2608

Upcoming Events

The National Propeller Club of the United States

"Salute to Congress" Awards Dinner

2005 Award Recipient is Rep. William J. Jefferson (D-LA)
Bethesda, MD

May 10, 2005

Contact: (703) 691-2777

National Maritime Day Observance

U.S. Navy Memorial

Washington, DC

10:30 A.M.

May 19, 2005

Contact: MARAD Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
at (202) 366-5807

National Maritime Day

May 22, 2005

If you know of an upcoming event you would like published in the *MARAD Update*, please submit it to Ella Thomas at ella.thomas@marad.dot.gov.